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121 organization of the Qu'aiti and Kathīri states, whose dominions together make up the country referred to in this report as the Hadhramaut.

3. *Geographical.*—A complete watch and compass traverse was made of all the route traversed on foot, on donkey, or on camel. When travelling by car all mileages were recorded. Topographical notes in very full detail were made along the whole of the route. The heights of all halts were taken by aneroid barometer, and temperatures were also recorded. We took 1,330 photographs and 800 feet of cinema film.

4. *Natural History.*—Specimens collected included one mammal, one reptile, one batrachian, 330 insects, spiders, scorpions, centipedes and crustacea, six fossils, eight mineral specimens and 160 botanical specimens. These were all forwarded to the British Museum and reports received. A tin of Du'an honey was also forwarded through the Colonial Office to the Imperial Institute for analysis and report. The report is incorporated in Chapter VII.

5. *Archaeological.*—Although a large number of fragments of inscriptions and other objects were obtained, it does not seem likely that they will prove of exceptional interest. A collection of objects from a Himyaritic tomb in Tarim and some possible stone implements were sent to Professor C. G. Seligman, and I have received some notes from him. He considers the principal feature of interest to be the discovery of sites of manufactories of obsidian, chert, and flint instruments. Various other inscriptions in the country hitherto unrecorded were photographed or copied. The language and characters of one painted inscription found in the Wadi Maseila have not yet been fully determined. Dr. A. S. Tritton of the School of Oriental Studies, who has examined it, has indicated certain similarities, apart from Himyaritic, to Ethiopic and to the North Arabian alphabets of Thamud and Safa.

The information referred to in the first two heads above is included in this report. The remainder, which includes the description of the country visited, has been partly dealt with in papers to the Royal Geographical and Royal Central Asian Societies, and may be made available in other forms.

114 124 I must claim some indulgence for this report, as it will be understood that comparatively speaking the length of time spent in the country was very short. It will be readily understood also that with the wholesale collection of information in a short time it is not possible to obtain all the check desirable, and many of the statements made depend on a single informant. It is however useful that as much as possible should be recorded so that, as opportunity occurs, the information given may be revised.

000 I should like to take this opportunity of acknowledging the great assistance I received from my wife and Khan Sahib Hasan Muhammad on the journey. It would not have been possible to obtain as much information and material without their assistance.

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2. The Deluge and the Giants.

I proceed now to the narrative of Hadhramaut history as it is told and believed in the country. Unless otherwise stated, the narrative is as given verbally by local authorities and taken down in writing at the time. The principal authority for the period from the disappearance of the 'Adites to modern times is Seiyid 'Abdul Qadir, private secretary to the Qu'aiti *Wazir*.

"In the time of our Father Nuh," said a Du'an historian, "the whole of this land and of every land was covered with water.[1] Nuh and his family built a big ship and lived in it while the flood lasted. When the waters subsided there were of course [illegible] rivers, and that is how the Wadis of the Hadhramaut were cut out, and that is why you find sea shells in them and on the Jōl."

"After the flood came the children of 'Ad, the first men to live in the Hadhramaut. They were great in stature, fifty cubits high. That was why they could use these great stones for building their houses. The tooth you have in your hand is the tooth of one of the sons of 'Ad, not of a sheep, as you thought." Thus said Muhammad the son of Seiyid Ahmed bin Hussein al 'Attas, the *Mansab* of Meshhed, as we stood among the ruins of Gheibun.

The children of 'Ad built towns and villages all over the Hadhramaut.[2] Some of them were big places and well built, and some of them were just rude dry stone shelters such as the Beduins build to-day.[3]

Nebi Allah Salih, peace be upon him, was a prophet of the people of 'Ad,[4] and he died and was buried in the Wadi Khonab, and his son was Nebi Allah Hud, peace be upon him. And in his day the people of 'Ad did evil in the sight of Allah and they listened not to the warnings of the Prophet, and they were destroyed, except a few, and Allah received the Prophet and his grave is in the Wadi Maseila.

And the son of Nebi Allah Hud was Nebi Hudūn, and his grave is in the mosque of Hudūn in the Wadi Du'an. And there were other Nebis in the Hadhramaut, Mola Matar (whom some say is Seiyidna 'Ali bin 'Abitalib), and Molana Nebi Sodaf whose grave is in the Wadi Sodaf, and others.[5]

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[1] Hadhramaut "history" begins with the Flood. The very nature of the Wadis makes it appear so vivid that it often seems quite a recent memory. The more scientific theory is, I believe, that the Wadis are due to the last Ice Age.

[2] If you wonder at the extent of their activities, reflect that 'Ad lived 1,200 years, had a thousand wives, and sired four thousand sons and daughters. Masudi, V, III, p. 80.

[3] Any sign of human activity going beyond the knowledge of man is the work of the people of 'Ad. As Seiyid 'Abdul Qadir said to me, "the people of the interior attribute everything old to 'Ad and those of the coast to the Portuguese. Neither are right."

[4] This is not of course the orthodox view. Salih preached to Thamud and is not generally believed to be the father of Hud.

[5] The grave of the giant Mola Matar is not far from the Kor Seiban. It, and the other giants' tombs, may have been sanctuaries of the old religion. Possibly Mola Matar was a rain-god. Sodaf may be Sadaf, the descendant, according to Arab genealogists, of Hadhramaut.